

Docket No.: 289274US41PCT/phm

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Jacques LECLERCQ, et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/578,779

GROUP: 1791

FILED: May 9, 2006

EXAMINER: SZEWCZYK, CYNTHIA

FOR: METHOD AND MACHINE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CONVEX GLASS
SHEETS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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SIR:

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of November 3, 2009, Applicants respectfully submit the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, paragraph 3 states in part:

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to teach or suggest a shaping bed in a circular arc of more than 90° with a polarity of blow-boxes disposed wherein the blow boxes extend over 90° of the circular arc and the glass sheets are released in a direction opposition which they were fed. The circular arc of the shaping bed provides a larger shaping zone resulting in better optical quality and the cooling area extending over 90° of the circular arc provides the advantage of a correctly carried out tempering and also influences the final concavity of the glass sheet. The combination of the shaping bed and cooling zone of more than 90°, such that the glass is released in a direction opposite the feed direction provides the advantage of a reduction in ground space needed for the apparatus.

It is respectfully noted that independent Claim 29 does not include the language recited above. For example, Claim 29 does not include a reference to "the cooling area extending over 90°". Also, the Examiner's Statement mischaracterizes the claims to the

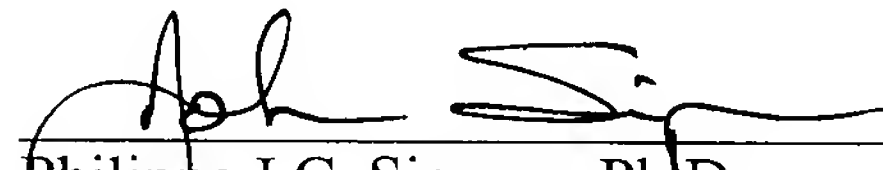
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extent that the Examiner's Statement provides explanations which suggest that the claims include additional limitations beyond the language of the claims. The specification and its explanations provide non-limiting embodiments of Applicants' advancement. It is the claims that define the invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement does not apply to Claim 29 to the extent the language used in the statement differs from the language of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philippe J.C. Signore", is written over a horizontal line.

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